



Fig. 8.

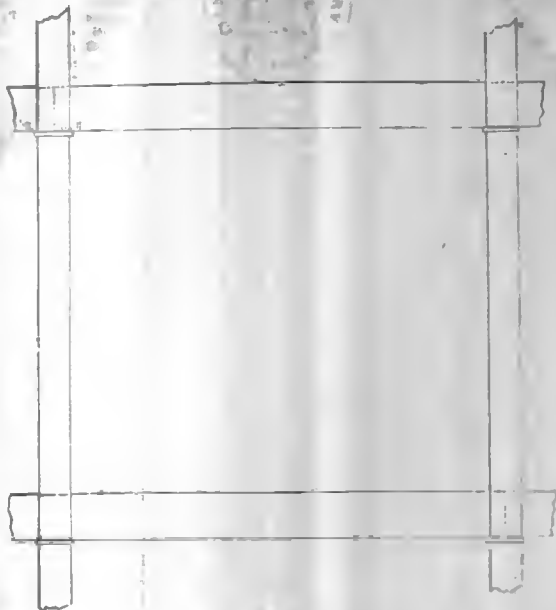


Fig. 9.



Fig. 12.



Fig. 13.

Correspondence.

Sir,—It was in answer to the wish implied by you in *THE BUILDER*, and not in any spirit of rivalry with Sir R. Smirke, that I ventured to send the "hasty" sketch which has drawn upon my devoted head the philippics of "X. X." and "Candidus," and called forth some remarks from yourself; the last, I am glad to admit, conceived in a more courteous tone of criticism than are those of your correspondents; and it is only from a feeling of respect towards yourself that I now make a few final observations, as it is not my intention to suffer myself to be drawn into an angry discussion.

One objection urged by "X. X." is easily answered; the centre portico, which in the engraving is shown as boustrophedon on the plan and as encaustyle in the elevation, is so made to appear through the mistake of the engraver (over whom I had no control), for in my sketch the octostyle arrangement of Sir R. Smirke is retained, a fact which is alluded to in the few remarks which accompanied my design. Of the rudeness of the cut, of which I might with more reason complain than "X. X.," I will say nothing, since you have handled that part of the subject.

"Candidus" requires to know why the Corinthian is preferred by me to the Ionic; surely there is no reason why an architect should be prevented from employing one style (if it be not anti) rather than another; nor any that he should be compelled to unfold his motives for so doing. I can, however, assure "Candidus" that it was not to gratify a prevailing fashion. To the same correspondent it may be answered that to place a pediment to a

portico which has a colonnade continued on each side, not lower than the portico itself, does not seem to agree with the spirit of ancient architecture, more especially of the Greeks. To place a pediment before a few feet only of roof seems to me to be only a pretence, a makeshift; and, therefore, I placed pediments where they would serve as the natural terminations of the roof at each end, with the ridge unbroken. In the London University, the great portico rises considerably above the rest of the facade, the pediment therefore is not objectionable. I am free to confess that my attention was more particularly directed to the columnar ordonnance, without devoting much thought to internal arrangement, a matter which would require other voices to be consulted besides that of the architect; but now that my notice is drawn that way, it seems to me that the wings might be easily appropriated as halls (with perhaps entrance lobbies) for some of the many classified requirements of the Institution; and the manner of lighting them would depend greatly upon the use to which they were applied. In such cases, cellars would not be required; the colonnade therefore might be made available for promenade, and the walls behind the colonnade might be enriched with tablets and bas-reliefs, as objects of interest and instruction to the public. If "X. X." and "Candidus" will favour you with designs for *TEN BRITISH*, no doubt many of your readers will make charitable allowances for the rudeness with which their ideas may be transferred to your pages.

I beg to subscribe myself as before,

Your well-wisher,

London, Dec. 26, 1843.

G. R. F.

COTTAGE PLANS.

Sir,—In answer to "A Builder in Practice," in No. 46, on cottage plans, I would observe that if there is more frontage than the houses occupy, the doors can be at the end, and the parlour larger, and the windows as he suggests. The omission of windows in the back room I think is an oversight on the part of your engraver. There is no cellar included in the cost. A coal-shed, &c. can be built at the back of the pantry.

A PRACTICAL BUILDER.

(Floors, when properly fitted up, and of a sufficient depth to be useful (that is when the joists are at least 12 inches wide), are a very great improvement; but when the shelves are only 8 or 9 inches wide, the closets generally become the receptacle of all the rubbish of the house. When they are put up, independently of the plastering, they should be lined all round with deal, and made air and dust tight. If it can be avoided, closets should never be placed against an external wall, especially one facing the north, unless the wall is buttressed on account of the damp. External walls, indeed, should always be battened in good rooms, as there is but little dependence or freedom from damp when the external walls are plastered on the brickwork, and the precaution of battening is neglected.

BALCO BALCONI was practised largely in Italy in the fourteenth century; and the brick buildings erected at this period in Tuscany, and other parts of the north of Italy, exhibit, at the present day, the finest specimens of brick-work extant.